



***CDPAC/CSL CRIB Notes
Leaving CalWORKs
December 2001***



“Are California’s Welfare Leavers Staying Off Public Assistance?: Welfare Recidivism and Use of Non-Cash Aid Since Welfare Reform.” By Charles Lieberman and David C. Mancuso. IN: California Policy Review, vol.1, no.2 (October 2001) 11p.

FULL TEXT at: <http://www.sphereinstitute.org/pdf/CPR%20v1n2%20.pdf>

[“According to this study, families who leave CalWORKs experience substantially lower rates of welfare recidivism than families who left its predecessor, AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children). However, a substantial number of former recipients are economically vulnerable but do not return to welfare, even if eligible. This may change quickly during an economic downturn.”]

[CDPAC Request 291]

Before and After Reform: How Have Families on Welfare Changed? By Sheila R. Zedlewski and Donald W. Alderson. The Urban Institute. New Federalism Survey of America’s Families. Series B, No. B-32 (April 2001) 7p.

FULL TEXT at: http://newfederalism.urban.org/pdf/anf_b32.pdf

[“Welfare reform has seen a change in the composition of the typical recipient. The proportion of single mothers on welfare who reported living with partners increased, as did the proportion who were African American. The proportion of adults on welfare who worked for pay rose. However, the difference in the degree of poverty between previous aid recipients and those on welfare today was not significant.”]

[CDPAC Request 292]

California Budget Project.

What We Know About Welfare Reform in California. The Project, Sacramento, California. October 23, 2001.

[CDPAC Request 293]

What Do We Know About Welfare Leavers in California? The Project, Sacramento, California, November 2000.

[CDPAC Request 294]

FULL TEXT at: www.cbp.org

[“These two reports, about a year apart, evaluate the economic status of people who leave welfare in California. About half are working, averaging \$9 an hour; many do not receive the work supports for which they are eligible (food stamps, Medi-Cal, child care); and with California’s high cost of living, a full-time hourly wage of \$20.89 is needed to raise two children at a basic level.”]

CalWORKs Leavers Survey: A Statewide Telephone Survey of Former CalWORKs Recipients. California Department of Social Services Program Planning and Performance Division, Data Operations Branch, Data Systems and Survey Design Bureau. January 2000. 31p.

FULL TEXT at: www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/pdf/Leavers.pdf

[“This is a small, random survey of 142 former recipients of CalWORKs assistance who provided information on why they left cash aid and their post-CalWORKs sources of support. Of the 142 surveyed, 68 left CalWORKs because they, their spouse or other family member got a job; 88 received some additional assistance such as Medi-Cal, child care, Food Stamps; and 110 believed they would not be receiving cash aid in a year.”]

[CDPAC Request 295]

Less Educated Single Mothers Achieved High Wage and Employment Gains in the Mid 1990s. The Urban Institute. Single Parents’ Earnings Monitor. October 26, 2001. 1p.

FULL TEXT at: http://www.urban.org/pdfs/SPEM_2.pdf

[“Single mothers have become increasingly successful in finding jobs and earning higher wages. Single mothers with the least formal education have attained the most dramatic gains. It remains to be seen whether such gains can be sustained as the economy weakens.”]

[CDPAC Request 296]

Life in a Post-Welfare World. By Sarah Glazer. Connect for Kids. November 2001. 5p.

FULL TEXT at:

www.connectforkids.org/resources3139/resources_show.htm?attrib_id=286&doc_id=90197&parent=82337

[“This article claims that mothers who enjoy substantial income gains after leaving welfare feel better about themselves and are more hopeful for their children but others are barely making it in low-wage jobs that offer no sick leave or other benefits. Strapped for money, many women leave their children with relatives and boyfriends and are becoming increasingly dependent on men in their lives, including abusive men.”]

[CDPAC Request 297]

On the Bottom Rung: A Profile of Americans in Low-Income Working Families. By Gregory Acs, Katherin Ross Phillips, and Daniel McKenzie. The Urban Institute. New Federalism: Issues and Options for States. Series A, No.A-42, (October 2000) 7p.

FULL TEXT at: http://newfederalism.urban.org/pdf/anf_a42.pdf

[“According to this report, lifting working families above 200 percent of the federal poverty level will require better wages and work supports. Expanded ‘Earned Income Tax Credits’ or higher wages through better education and skills, must be the path to greater economic security for America’s low-income workers and their families.”]

[CDPAC Request 298]

Poverty Trends for Families Headed by Working Single Mothers: 1993 to 1999. By Kathryn H. Porter and Allen Dupree. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The Center, Washington DC. August 2001. 29p.

FULL TEXT at: <http://www.cbpp.org/8-16-01wel.pdf>

[“Among people in families headed by working single mothers, there was no progress in reducing poverty between 1995 and 1999, despite an expanding economy. Reductions in

poverty as a result of economic growth were entirely offset by increases in poverty due to contractions in government safety net programs. This is in contrast to the earlier 1993 to 1995 period when safety nets were still in place. These programs had a profound impact on reducing poverty.”]

[CDPAC Request 299]

Snapshots of America’s Families II: A View of the Nation and 13 States: Data by State: California. The Urban Institute. National Survey of America’s Families. October 2000. 14p.

FULL TEXT at: <http://newfederalism.urban.org/nsaf/pdf/statebystate.pdf>

[“In California, 2206 households were surveyed in 1999. The statistical data presented includes: family economic well-being; health insurance coverage, access and health status of children; children’s behavior and well-being; children’s family environment.”]

[CDPAC Request 300]

When Work Just Isn’t Enough: Measuring Hardships Faced By Families After Moving From Welfare to Work. By Heather Boushey and Bethney Gundersen. Economic Policy Institute Briefing Paper. June 2001. 22p.

FULL TEXT at: <http://www.epinet.org/briefingpapers/hardshipsbp.pdf>

[“When a family is unable to meet its basic needs, such as not having enough food to eat, being evicted from their home, or not getting needed medical care, these families face what we call critical hardships. These kinds of hardships indicate that a family’s income level cannot support basic needs critical for survival. Working families, however, can also suffer serious hardships, which occur when they lack goods and services necessary to support a safe and decent standard of living. Serious hardships include lack of access to regular preventative medical care; lack of accessible and quality childcare; lack of affordable and stable housing; and worrying about having adequate food.”]

[CDPAC Request 301]

Working First But Working Poor: The Need for Education and Training Following Welfare Reform: Executive Summary. By Cynthia Negrey and others. The Institute for Women’s Policy Research. NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund. September 2001. 20p.

FULL TEXT at: <http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/7states-exec.pdf>

[“This new report found that most female welfare leavers are directed toward traditional female-dominated positions and low-wage services sector positions. The report contends that the work-first policies have resulted in an immediate, sharp decrease in comprehensive job training and postsecondary education for women welfare recipients.”]

[CDPAC Request 302]

Working Poor Families with Children: Leaving Welfare Doesn’t Necessarily Mean Leaving Poverty. By Richard Wertheimer. Child Trends Research Brief. May 2001. 6p.

FULL TEXT at: http://www.childtrends.org/pdf/May_2001.pdf

[“The research in this study compares the status of working poor families before and after the implementation of the 1996 welfare reform law which aimed to get more families into employment and out of welfare. The data presented in the brief indicate that even during the economic boom times of 1995-98, employment did not guarantee that a family would escape poverty”.]

[CDPAC Request 303]